



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0016

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

DAVID A. COLE
COMMISSIONER

November 6, 2008

George Campbell – Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 483, 7 Hazen Dr.
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0483

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Dear Commissioner *George* Campbell:

TOWN OF KITTERY

Per our conversations earlier this week, the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) has determined that it is not in Maine's best interest to move forward with the rehabilitation project for the Memorial Bridge Project from Kittery, Maine to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. However, we remain committed to working with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to look at all available options for maintaining this important connection between our two states. It is the opinion of our engineers, that pursuing this course of action is not the best value alternative from an engineering economics perspective.

As you know, the low bid is about 34% over the estimate. In response, the NHDOT has coordinated with the apparent low bidder to reduce the scope of the project at a reduced price. I understand that this reduced scope option includes a new lift span and tower rehabilitation only, and is to be priced at approximately \$45 million, the amount of existing resources, with the remainder of the original scope of the project being delayed in to the next three to five years; thus nearly doubling the original estimates for a structure with a relatively short life span. Moreover, the Federal Highway Administration has indicated that rejecting the bid may be preferable.

Accordingly, given the significant costs facing our two states, we believe that all options should be considered on a life cycle basis, including a redesign of the lift span to bring down rehabilitation costs, as well as a potential new replacement structure which could have up to a 100 year life.

In closing, please know that we remain committed to working with NHDOT to aggressively evaluate all potential options, so as to assure that these vital connections between our states continue to serve the traveling public. Given financial constraints, however, we owe it to the public to examine all options to get best value, especially considering other pressing infrastructure needs that will not soon abate.



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We look forward to hearing from you regarding next steps.

Sincerely,



David A. Cole
Commissioner

DAC/

cc: Jonathan Carter - Town Manager, Kittery
Jonathan McDade - Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator